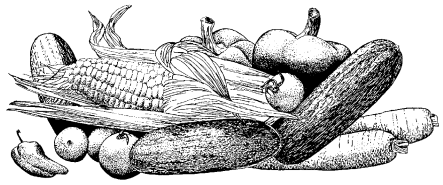
California Vegetable Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2004 California processing tomato production is forecast at 11.1 million tons, up 21 percent from 2003. The acreage, at 281 thousand acres, increased 4 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 39.50 tons per acre, 17 percent above last year's 33.77 tons per acre. Exceptionally high yields in California have been reported in most areas. Because of the heavier than expected production, some processors are planning to purchase significant quantities in addition to the tonnage already contracted. A portion of the crop may also go unused, according to industry sources.

U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 11.6 million tons, 20 percent greater than last year. Based on comparable States between 2003 and 2004, a 3 percent increase in contracted acreage was accompanied by a yield increase of 5.54 tons per acre. Growth and development of the Indiana crop have been slowed by cooler than normal temperatures during the first three weeks of August. Warm and sunny conditions are needed to improve the crop. Michigan yields are lower this season due to unseasonably cool temperatures across the State. In addition, wet conditions have led to disease problems, but cool temperatures helped reduce fungal pressure. Ohio growers had harvested 10 percent of the tomato crop as of mid-August. Temperatures have been cool and rainfall has been above average.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2002 Total	2003 Total	2003 Contract 1/	Indicated 2004 Contract 1/	2002 Total	2003 Total	Indicated 2004 Contract 1/	2002 Total	2003 Total	2003 Contract 1/	Indicated 2004 Contract 1/
	Acres				Tons						
California	291,000	274,000	271,000	281,000	37.99	33.77	39.50	11,056,000	9,252,000	9,141,000	11,100,000
Indiana	8,100	8,200	8,200	8,300	31.66	24.67	31.90	256,450	202,290	202,290	264,770
Michigan	3,600	3,300	3,300	3,300	35.00	38.00	33.00	126,000	125,400	125,400	108,900
New Jersey	---	---	---	800	---	---	28.30	---	---	---	22,640
Ohio	6,300	5,700	5,600	5,700	23.75	30.40	26.60	149,630	173,280	170,240	151,620
Other States 2/	3,200	2,720	2,720	---	25.86	24.54	---	82,740	66,740	66,740	---
U.S. 3/	312,200	293,920	290,820	299,100	37.38	33.41	38.94	11,670,820	9,819,710	9,705,670	11,647,930

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.
2/ 2002 and 2003 - MD, NJ and PA.
3/ In-season forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates to be published in the January 2005 annual. PA estimates discontinued in 2004.

ASPARAGUS PRODUCTION

The California 2004 asparagus production is estimated at 975 thousand cwt., 13 percent below 2003. The yield is estimated at 39 cwt., up 26 percent from last year. The harvested acreage, at 25.0 thousand acres, decreased 31 percent from 2003. Asparagus harvest in the Imperial Valley began early as warm temperatures accelerated development. Harvest peaked during the last week of March into the first week of April.

Nationally, production of the 2004 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.85 million cwt., down 9 percent from 2003. Harvested acreage, at 53.5 thousand, is down 20 percent from last year. Fresh production of 1.29 million cwt., decreased 7 percent from last year. Processed production, at 28,200 tons, is down 13 percent from 2003. Asparagus for canning, at 21.6 thousand tons, is down 25 percent from last year.

Frozen asparagus production of 6,600 tons is up 74 percent from 2003. Total value of the crop, at 202 million dollars, is 2 percent greater than 2003. Michigan's 2004 season has experienced a variety of less than optimal conditions. The crop progressed rapidly during the spring, but a hard frost occurred the first week of May. Warmer temperatures followed during mid-May to help development, but excessive rainfall and widely varied temperatures later in the month hindered production as well as harvest activity. Yields were variable due to inclement conditions, but growers report good regrowth and minimal disease pressure. Harvest concluded the third week in June. Washington's asparagus acreage continues to decline. Harvest began early this year with some beetle pressure reported. For some growers, the season was shortened by high labor costs and low fresh market demand.

ASPARAGUS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		$1,000	
California	36,000	28,000	36,000	25,000	31	39	1,116	975	122.00	139.00	136,152	135,525
Michigan	16,000	15,500	15,000	14,500	21	20	317	290	60.80	64.50	19,278	18,708
Washington	17,000	15,000	16,000	14,000	38	42	608	588	71.20	81.00	43,277	47,616
U.S.	69,000	58,500	67,000	53,500	30	35	2,041	1,853	97.40	109.00	198,707	201,849

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California's 2004 spring onion production is estimated at 3.32 million cwt., up 9 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 495 cwt. per acre, up 1 percent from last year. The spring onions were planted last fall without any major problems. However, cold late winter weather, followed by hot temperatures in early spring, resulted in quality problems in some areas which put downward pressure on prices. Overall, good yields were reported.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 11.4 million cwt., is up 20 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 35,300, are up 13 percent from a year ago, while the yield, at 323 cwt. per acre, is up 19 cwt. per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 225 million dollars, 21 percent less than last year. Arizona growers report a good quality crop as harvest nears completion. In Georgia, the spring onion crop was reported in fair to good condition throughout the season which ended the last week of May. Temperatures have been average and disease minimal. The Texas spring onion season is complete. Good size and quality were reported.

SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		$1,000	
Arizona	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	500	500	750	800	9.89	8.80	7,418	7,040
California	6,400	6,900	6,200	6,700	490	495	3,038	3,317	22.90	15.10	69,570	50,087
Georgia	14,000	16,500	12,500	14,500	175	260	2,188	3,770	34.30	23.50	75,048	88,595
Texas	12,800	14,500	11,000	12,500	320	280	3,520	3,500	38.10	22.60	134,112	79,100
U.S.	34,700	39,500	31,200	35,300	304	323	9,496	11,387	30.10	19.70	286,148	224,822

1/ Primarily fresh.

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